

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /162 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9680

INFO SECDEF

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04900

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON MBFR

REF: VIENNA 3245

1. REFTEL NOTES THAT UK POSITION ON MBFR HAS CONTINUED
TO BE CONSERVATIVE SINCE TALKS RESUMED IN JANUARY AND
THAT POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED UNDER NEW LABOR GOVT. WHILE
THIS IS TRUE, WE UNDERSTAND FROM FCO/MOD OFFICIALS THAT
MBFR POLICY IS UNDER REVIEW. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON FACT
THAT POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED AS OF NOW. BUT THIS IS TRUE
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PARTLY BECAUSE NO ISSUE HAS ARISEN WHICH HAS REQUIRED
NEW MINISTERS TO BE BRIEFED ON COMPLEXITIES OF MBFR.

BOTH TICKELL AND MCLAREN OF FCO WESTERN ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD US IN LAST WEEK THAT NEW LABOR MINISTERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW MBFR.

2. ON APRIL 19 MCLAREN SPECULATED FURTHER THAT OFFICIALS WILL NOT HAVE OCCASION TO PUT MBFR TO MINISTERS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. THUS WE CAN EXPECT CURRENT UK POLICY LINE TO CONTINUE AT LEAST UNTIL NEW NEGOTIATION SESSION WITH WARSAW PACT (WP) BEGINS.

3. UK MBFR REP ROSE IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN LONDON APRIL 29-MAY 3 FOR MEETINGS IN FCO AND MOD AND, ON APRIL 30, WILL HAVE BI-LATERAL ON MBFR WITH RUTH AND ROTH OF FRG. BUT MCLAREN DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT EITHER ROSE VISIT OR FRG/UK BI-LATERAL WILL PRECIPITATE EARLY MINISTERIAL REVIEW.

4. EMBASSY ESTIMATE IS THAT MBFR REVIEW BY UK MINISTERS WILL OCCUR WHEN WP POSITION COMES OUT IN NEXT STAGE OF TALKS AND AS UK DEFENSE SPENDING REVIEW TAKES SHAPE. IF SPENDING REVIEW INDICATES DOWNTURN IN UK RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR NATO, HMG MAY WELL BECOME MORE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATION IN SOME MBFR REDUCTIONS.

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Message Attributes

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